

Message Text

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62

ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 COME-00 EB-11 NEA-10 VO-03 SCA-01

(ADP) R

DRAFTED BY EUR/ EE: EHURWITZ: MW

4-20-73 EXT 23191

APPROVED BY E - MR. CASEY

EB/ EWT - MR. TARTTER (DRAFT)

COMMERCE: BE/ WT: RSEVERANCE (SUBST)

EUR/ EE - MR. BAKER

EUR/ EE - MR. SEGALL

S/ S - MR. BARNES

EUR - MR. STOESSEL

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O P 202356 Z APR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 075298

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BU, US

SUBJECT: LUKANOV VISIT

REF: SOFIA' S 443

MOSCOW FOR MR. ARMITAGE

1. DEPARTMENT AGREES THAT VISAS FOR LUKANOV VISIT SHOULD NOT BE ISSUED AT THIS TIME.

2. CHARGE REQUESTED TO CALL ON LUKANOV TO NOTIFY HIM OF THIS DECISION AND TO EXPLAIN OUR REASONS. EXPLANATION SHOULD CITE BULGARIAN PRESS TREATMENT OF BEIRUT INCIDENT, CONFIDENTIAL

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OUR DEMARCHES TO MFA, AND WHOLLY UNSATISFACTORY MFA REJECTION OF OUR POSITION ON APRIL 20. CHARGE SHOULD NOTE THAT OUR CONCERN IN THIS ISSUE IS NOT OVER ORDINARY ATTACKS ON US WHICH FREQUENTLY APPEAR IN CONTROLLED BULGARIAN MEDIA, BUT OVER THE REPETITION OF SCURRILOUS ALLEGATIONS WHICH COULD ENCOURAGE TERRORISM AND INCITE VIOLENCE AGAINST AMERICANS. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE FEEL THAT ATMOSPHERE FOR FRUITFUL DISCUSSION OF TRADING POSSIBILITIES HAS BEEN DAMAGED AND LUKANOV'S VISIT THEREFORE DOES NOT APPEAR ADVISABLE AT THIS TIME.

3. CHARGE SHOULD EXPRESS REGRET THAT LUKANOV, WHO WE

BELIEVE TO BE SINCERELY INTERESTED IN IMPROVING US-BULGARIAN ECONOMIC RELATIONS, SHOULD BE CAUGHT IN MIDDLE OF THIS SITUATION. BUT HE SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT COMPLETE DISREGARD BY GOB OF OUR POSITION ON ISSUE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE AND SENSITIVITY CANNOT BUT AFFECT ATMOSPHERE OF OUR RELATIONS. FOR OUR PART, WE HOPE THAT PRESENT DIFFICULTIES WILL BE OVERCOME AND THAT LUKANOV VISIT, WHICH COULD LEAD TO BROADENING OF BULGARIAN BUSINESS CONTACTS WITH US FIRMS, CAN TAKE PLACE AS ATMOSPHERE IMPROVES THROUGH FORWARD MOTION IN OTHER AREAS OF BILATERAL RELATIONS.

4. CHARGE REQUESTED ALSO TO CALL ON AVRAMOV AT MFA TO INFORM HIM OF DECISION TO DEFER VISIT. MENTION SHOULD BE MADE AT THIS TIME OF SPECIAL NATURE OF BULGARIAN TREATMENT OF BEIRUT EVENTS (NEXT TO LAST SENTENCE PARA 2 ABOVE) AND OUR HOPE THAT PROGRESS IN RELATIONS CAN BE MADE (FINAL SENTENCE PARA 3). PORTER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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